## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sensor having a sensor element, and a control unit having a processor, and a method for monitoring at least one sensor, are proposed. A fault pattern is generated within the sensor and is transmitted from the sensor to the control unit in order to enable an appropriate response to the fault pattern by the processor. The fault pattern is preferably transmitted in an eight-bit word. In addition to faults, unusual operating states are also transmitted.

10

5

10